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BLACK HISTORY MONTH



As we celebrate Black History Month this February, we recognize and honor the African Americans whose history-making accomplishments have helped shape the face and future of our nation. From arts and politics to industry, sports, science and beyond, we celebrate the countless contributions Black Americans have made to our world and collective culture. We also pay tribute to the generations of Black men and women who have fought for equality, justice and opportunity, and those who continue the movement for racial justice and an end to systemic racism today.

"I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that warmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality."

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

Please join us in honoring and celebrating
Black History Month.

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Influential figures throughout black history

Since 1926, Americans have recognized the accomplishments and influences of various individuals during the celebration of Black History Month. With February upon us once again, we focus on many of the people across the globe who have helped to shape black history.

Iman: Born Iman Mohamed Abdulmajid in Somali, this internationally recognized supermodel and actress is also a successful entrepreneur. After 20 years of modeling, Iman began her own cosmetics company, focusing on shades that were geared toward ethnic women. The business now reports annual profits of \$25 million. Additionally, Iman is actively involved in a number of charitable works, including the Enough Project to end global trade conflicts over minerals and gems.

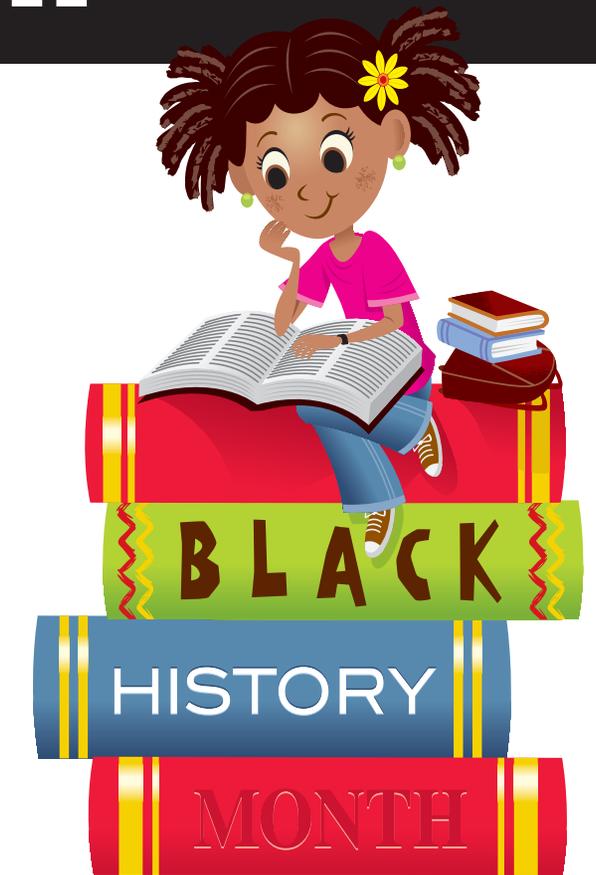
Guion Bluford: Bluford is a retired NASA astronaut and retired U.S. Air Force colonel. He participated in four space shuttle flights between 1983 and 1992. Bluford is known as the first African-American in space and holds honorary doctorate degrees from 14 different colleges and universities.

George Njoroge: Born in Kenya, Njoroge is a scientist who is now the director of medicinal chemistry at Merck Research Laboratories. Njoroge was at the center of the development of the drug Victrelis, which was approved in 2011 by the FDA to treat Hepatitis C. Njoroge was inducted into the scientific Hall of Fame as a 2012 Hero of Chemistry by the American Chemical Society.

Amsale Aberra: Aberra is an Ethiopian-born fashion designer and entrepreneur. Her designs are known across the globe, and she has various couture shops, including one on Madison Avenue in New York, NY. Television producers often turn to Aberra when they need beautiful fashions for television and movies. Her designs have been featured on "Grey's Anatomy," "27 Dresses" and "American Wedding."

Alek Wek: Wek is the first African model to appear on the cover of "Elle" magazine, a distinction she earned in 1997. Born in South Sudan, Wek has been a popular catwalk model and has also appeared in Tina Turner's music video for "Golden Eye." Wek is a member of the U.S. Committee for Refugees Advisory Council, and educates others about the dire situation in Sudan and elsewhere in the world.

Oprah Winfrey: This American entertainment mogul is best known for her long-running and award-winning talk show, which was the highest-rated program of its time during its airing. Winfrey also acts and produces and is a noted philanthropist. Winfrey has frequently is routinely ranked among the most powerful women in the world, and the most influential black person of her generation. Winfrey is the only black billionaire in North America.



Nelson Mandela: The world mourned the death of Nelson Mandela in late 2013. An anti-apartheid activist and philanthropist from South Africa, Mandela was the first black South African to hold the office of President, and the first elected in a fully representative democratic election. Mandela spent 27 years in prison after leading a campaign against the apartheid government.

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I Wouldn't Have Missed It for the World

Ray Neal and Beth Turner, Crockett Rocket Sweethearts 2026

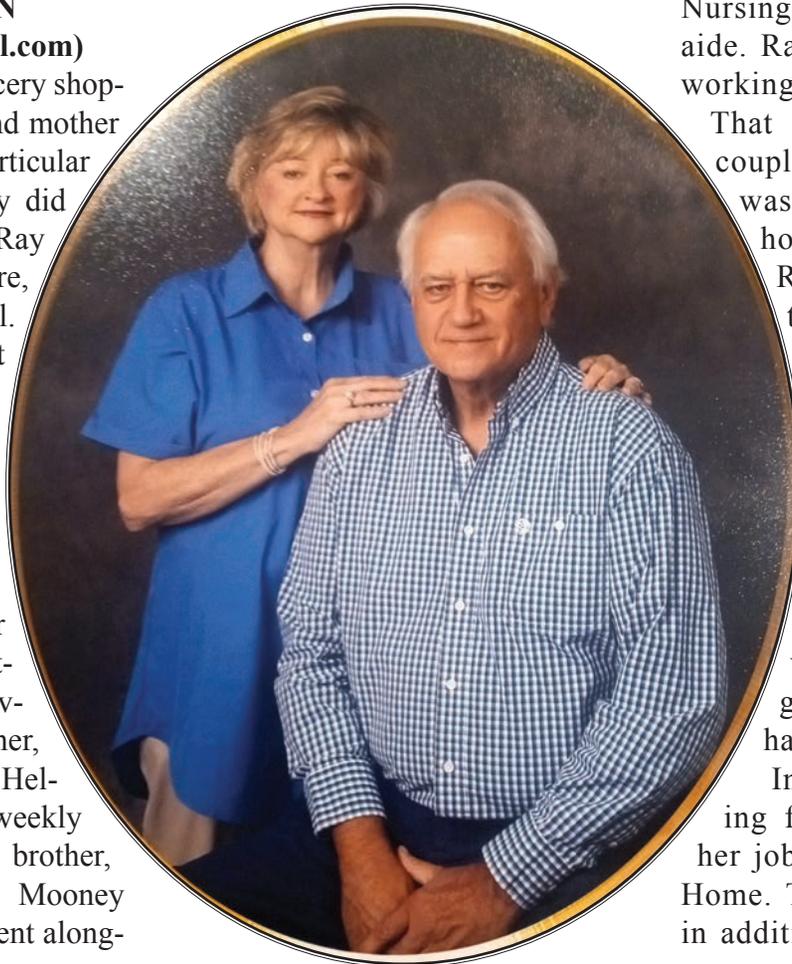
BY JUDY POSTON

(judyposton1963@gmail.com)

In the days of Big Star grocery shopping in Alamo, each wife and mother in the community had a particular day of the week when they did their weekly shopping, says Ray Neal Turner who worked there, freshly out of high school. He recalls Carolyn Prescott pushing a buggy through the store with her small red-haired daughter, April, in tow. He remembers Peggy Peterson leaving the store each week with not one, but two carts full of food in order to feed her brood of eight. Saturday was the day Beth Revelle accompanied her mother, Edwina, and grandmother, Helen, as they picked up their weekly supply of groceries. Beth's brother, Dennis (Butch) and Odell Mooney worked in the meat department alongside Ray Neal's dad, Rex.

Ray Neal grew up in Alamo on North Bells Street on a parcel of land that had originally been a part of his grandparents' farm. As a young man, his dad taught him the art of making sausage and cutting and preparing meat for the freezer. Together they cut up "tons" of pork and venison, readying it for appreciative customers throughout the county and beyond.

Beth grew up on Lanier Road near Crockett Mills. The daughter of a farmer, she and her family could be found chopping cotton throughout the warm summer months, with no day off – not even for celebrating the Fourth of July. Theirs was a three generation household as her maternal grandmother,



Beth and Ray Neal Turner
The Crockett Rocket's Sweethearts for 2026

May Poston, lived with the family.

It was April Fools' Day, 1977, when Ray Neal and Beth had their first date. They double-dated with friends and journeyed to Martin where they treated themselves to a Ronnie Milsap concert. Ray Neal had graduated a year earlier from Alamo High School. Beth was still a student at Hamlet Robertson in Crockett Mills. Ray Neal can still recall the taste of delicious pizza Beth made one evening while they were dating.

In the spring of '78, Beth graduated high school. She went to work for Craig Laman with Alamo

Nursing Home, serving as a nurse's aide. Ray Neal, meanwhile, began working for Mid-South Co-op.

That fall, on October 12, the couple married. Their ceremony was held at Pond Creek, Beth's home church. Her cousin, Ralph Poston, performed the ceremony. The Turners made their home in Crockett County, eventually settling into a house right across the road from Ray Neal's parents, on North Bells, in Alamo, where they reared their children, teaching them the values their own parents, grandparents, and families had instilled in them.

In 1989, Beth, still working for Craig Laman, changed her job location to Bells Nursing Home. Throughout her tenure and in addition to serving as a nurse's aide, she worked in admissions for a time. She also served in accounts payable and as receptionist.

Likewise, at Co-op (now United Co-op), Ray Neal served in many different capacities over the years, including working in the warehouse, at the service counter, helping in the springtime, late into the evenings, with fertilizer, and, finally, becoming the store manager.

On December 29, 1986, the eldest of their children, a daughter, Hannah Rae, was born. In the years to come, two sons, Cody and Carson followed. Ray Neal shares that while neither he nor Beth ever had high paying jobs, they managed to pay for three sets of braces, three "first cars," and higher learning for

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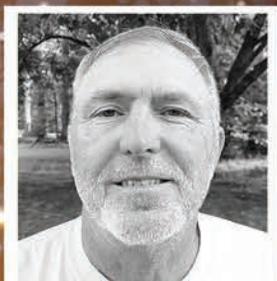
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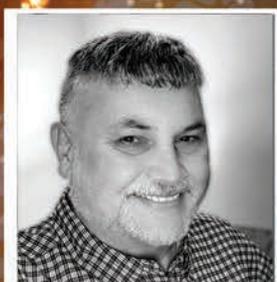
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Associate Publisher



Judy Poston
Writer



Steve Stroud
Distribution



Greg Tucker
Layout/Design

all three of their children.

When Craig Laman passed away in 2023, Beth was serving as his secretary, with her desk positioned just outside his office at BNH. She keenly felt the void left behind by Craig's death. She had worked for him since her high school graduation. Now, she began to think of retiring. After talking it over, she and Ray Neal decided they would retire together.

Both Beth and Ray Neal had been employed by the same business their entire married life. Beth loyally served with Craig for 46 years. At times she has been moved to tears at losing nursing home residents who had become dear to her heart.

Ray Neal had worked at Co-op for almost 48 years when he retired at the end of 2025, having served, in some cases, four generations of Crockett County farmers from the same family and leaving an indelible influence on younger co-workers who looked up to him with respect.

Today, Ray Neal and Beth live on a farm on the same road where Beth grew up where there is plenty of pasture for Ray Neal's beloved cows. A wide front porch provides the perfect setting for watching the farm come alive each day with the appear-



Beth and Ray Neal Turner attending the wedding of Ray Neal's sister.

ance of the morning sun, all the while enjoying a quiet time of peaceful tranquility, breathing in the country air, and spending moments reflecting on and treasuring holy scriptures, drawing strength from the pages of a devotional devoted to God's word.

Just inside the front door of

their spacious home is displayed Beth's collection of miniature tea sets. In this room, she and Ray Neal relax before the fireplace with Baxter, their Yorkshire Terrier, enjoying evenings with the Andy Griffin Show, Gunsmoke and other westerns.

Sunday mornings are spent with the church family at Pond Creek, sharing a pew with daughter, Hannah, and her family. At Pond Creek, both Ray Neal and Beth take an active role in leading by serving.

It is always a treasured time when Hannah and Mitch's sons, John Haddon and James, spend an afternoon at the farm. Cody and wife, Samantha, have recently built a lovely new home just down the road from his parents. Ray Neal and Beth's youngest son, Carson, makes his home in New Jersey.

The current statistics say 40% of first marriages end in divorce. The most recent information shows those entering the working class today will likely have 12-13 jobs in a lifetime. Ray Neal and Beth have defied the odds, quietly and steadily establishing a stable life, home, and marriage, giving back to their community through their work, serving God and their fellow man, all the while laying a firm foundation for their children and grandchildren on which to build their own lives.

Although Ronnie Milsap's song, "I Wouldn't Have Missed It For the World," is a story of love lost, much of the song's phrasing surely describes the mutual feelings of Ray Neal and Beth: "I wouldn't have missed loving you.... You've made my whole life worthwhile.... I wouldn't trade one memory, cause you mean too much to me.... I wouldn't have missed it for the world."

Next fall, Ray Neal and Beth will celebrate 48 years of marriage. Happy Anniversary! Happy Valentine's Day! May God richly bless you with many more years to come.



Beth and Ray Neal pictured with their family: (from left, front row) Savannah, John Haddon, James, Beth, Hannah, (back row) Mitch, Cody, Ray Neal, and Carson

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Crockett County General CTE General Store

An Opportunity for Kids to Shine and the Entire Community to Benefit

BY JUDY POSTON

(judyposton1963@gmail.com)

So, what exactly is available for purchase by the public at the CTE (Career Technical Education) General Store, located on campus at Crockett County High School? Wellll...let's start with the short list: HOMEMADE soups, white chicken chili, casseroles, sweet treats, jellies and jams, sandwich kits, charcuterie lunches, veggie cups and salads made with STUDENT GROWN vegetables, and the very popular freeze dried snack products. Mutton products include lamb chops, stew meat, and brats with available flavors such as sweet hot Italian, jalapeno and cheddar, and andouille. Is your mouth watering yet?

Remember everything in the store is STUDENT CREATED including: simmer pot kits to fill your home with fragrance, jewelry, toy spinning tops, ink pens, coasters, Christmas tree ornaments, caps and toboggans, and unique metal wall hangings. A large variety of memorabilia items for Cavalier fans may be purchased as well as items featuring logo for other sports teams and items that can otherwise be

personalized, including a beautiful custom made fire pit and other personalized laser work. Looking for a unique gift? Has anything caught your eye? Just wait till you experience it in person.

A corner cooler is filled with arrangements made with live flowers and much love by the students in Ashley Moore's class. In addition to purchasing individual bouquets, a one year subscription may be purchased for yourself or someone you love to receive a lovely bouquet each month. Think of the joy this would bring to a shut-in or nursing home resident.

Not only are there numerous products available for purchase, services for your automobile are available as well: oil change, tire rotation and balance, oil filter, air filter, and cabin filter changes, plus car washes are offered.

In 2021, Haley Williams, CTE Director at CCHS, had a golden opportunity. She toured a high school in San Antonio, Texas. Located on campus was a store that featured products made by the students themselves. The building featured a general store front. So impressed was Haley that she made a video of the tour



Students preparing delicious treats for shoppers

and sent it to both P.A. Pratt and Jared Foust, Director and Assistant Director of Crockett County Schools. "We need this," she told them. Watching the video, the men quickly caught Haley's

enthusiasm. All three wanted this for Crockett County High School students. The major problem? How to fund the dream?

The answer was found in grant money and in teachers who were



Sandy Woodruff ready to serve customers behind the counter at the General Store.



Fire pit available for personalization.



Maroon cap with Cavalier logo available for purchase.



A delectable cake baked with love by vocational students.



Ribbon cutting for the Crockett County CTE General Store

willing to spend long hours, late nights, and weekends putting in the time, work, and effort necessary to obtain the grants. They were willing because they understood what the opportunity would mean for their students.

Today, it is the only facility of its kind in not only West Tennessee, but the whole state. However, it should be only a matter of time until other schools and educators hear what Crockett County has and flock to CCHS to learn more. It is certain Crockett County has

something worth imitating.

Sandy Woodruff is the CTE Store's biggest cheerleader. Sandy retired from serving as the high school's secretary only to return the very next semester to volunteer in assisting in the school's newest venture. She says she is thankful to be a part of it and that watching it come together has been a privilege. Sandy tells, "Haley is the brain behind the general store. It is her vision and she has brought it to fruition." Sandy goes on to say,

"This is a wonderful, unique, one of a kind opportunity for the kids, a chance for the kids in vocational training to shine!" Sandy says, "I am so proud of Haley," and notes she has known Haley since Haley, herself, was a student at CCHS.

Once the location for the general store was chosen and the building started, it was students themselves, under the direction of Rusty McKnight, who put in the wood and metal for the walls and ceiling. Students also hung

the cabinets purchased for the commercial kitchen.

Too, students built the amazing greenhouse with all its special needed features for growing hydroponic plants for selling in the store as well as using in making various products the store sells. Like the general store itself, all materials for the green house were furnished through grants. "Everything from the materials to build the structure to the seeds were purchased with grant money," states Haley. The CTE stu-

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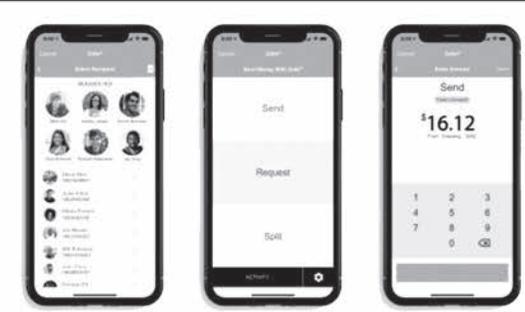
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February is **Heart Month**

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dents first began raising hydroponic lettuce. The success of that venture has led to also growing cucumbers, squash, tomatoes, jalapeno peppers, cabbage, dill, basil, cilantro, and peppermint.

Indoor hydroponic gardening is a method of growing plants

in nutrient-rich water instead of soil. This method offers faster growth, higher yields, and water efficiency. The plants grow on a float bed system. Every plant requires different PH levels and nutrients. Wall monitors show the PH levels and nutrients in the

water allowing students to adjust as needed.

Students have planted different varieties of tomatoes to determine which will grow best using the hydroponic method. They learn to pollinate the fruit just as a bee would do in nature, as well as tie the tomato vines. A pump system, plumbed by the students, waters the tomatoes and a monitor checks nutrient levels. If the nutrients are off, an automatic filter corrects. Students also calculate planting and rotating times with each crop so fruits and veggies are not ready all at once. The products are included in the Pick Tennessee Products Website.

On the day I visited, Karly Davis was assisting Haley in the work done in the general store, preparing for the store to be opened this semester. Pork fat filled a crock pot in preparation for a new offering, tallow lotion, a very popular product now. Freeze dried pickles were also being prepared. Health inspectors inspect the kitchen on a regular basis to insure safety and cleanliness.

The fall semester was the first time for the general store to be opened. A ribbon cutting was held. The business opened with much fanfare. Customers were not disappointed. Items sold out. One item popular with cooks preparing for Thanksgiving was the crumbled cornbread and biscuits ready for making dressing. Haley shares, “The community has been extremely supportive.” “I was amazed,” says Elaine Clement,” of her shopping experience.

Plans are for the General Store to be open each Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:00-4:00, during the spring semester. They also

plan to be open one Saturday per month, 8:00-2:00, beginning Valentine’s Day, Saturday, February 14. On Valentine’s Day, flower bouquets as well as other valentine gift items will be available. Two vending machines on the store’s front porch will hold some items that may be purchased even when the store is closed. All proceeds from the store go back into the various CTE classes and programs for purchasing equipment and supplies. For more up to date information, please see their Facebook page @ Crockett County CTE General Store which was created and is maintained by Sarah Kennedy’s marketing students and which has several new posts each week.

Sandy is filled with joy when she sees students reaction to seeing their own finished creations filling the display cases and hanging from the store’s walls. “They just light up at seeing something of themselves – there is nothing better.” Again, Sandy gives credit to Haley saying, “What a testimony to Haley! She loves them!”

Thank you to all the teachers, administrators, faculty and staff, and volunteers, who love their students and have given of themselves to make this dream and other dreams a reality for the students of Crockett County. These are folks who are the wind beneath the wings, who go the extra mile, encouraging students, overseeing and coordinating activities in the classroom and beyond. Your dedication and devotion does not go unseen. You are making a difference in the lives of not only your kids, but the entire community. You are appreciated.



Above: CCHS student Karly Davis in the kitchen at Crockett County’s CTE General Store.

Right: The general store offers fresh bouquets.



Who Declared Our Nation's Independence?

Names like John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and, of course, John Hancock might instantly come to mind when pondering the men who signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

But what about the remaining signatories to the founding document of the United States?

According to the National Archives, 56 men signed the Declaration of Independence, and even historians and armchair history buffs might be hard pressed to name all 56 signers of the pivotal document.

Some might even be surprised to learn that various notable figures from the era were not among the 56 signers on the Declaration of Independence, a list that includes Alexander Hamilton, John Jay and George Washington. George Mason, another influential figure of the era, also decided against signing the Declaration of Independence, citing its lack of a "Bill of Rights" as motivation for keeping his pen to himself.

Those who signed the Declaration of Independence include:

- Adams, John - MA - Lawyer
- Adams, Samuel - MA - Merchant
- Bartlett, Josiah - NH - Physician
- Braxton, Carter - VA - Plantation Owner
- Carroll, Charles of Carrollton - MD - Merchant, Plantation Owner
- Chase, Samuel - MD - Lawyer
- Clark, Abraham - NJ - Lawyer, Surveyor
- Clymer, George - PA - Merchant
- Ellery, William - RI - Lawyer, Merchant
- Floyd, William - NY - Land Speculator
- Franklin, Benjamin - PA - Scientist, Printer
- Gerry, Elbridge - MA - Merchant
- Gwinnett, Button - GA - Merchant, Plantation Owner
- Hall, Lyman - GA - Physician, Minister
- Hancock, John - MA - Merchant
- Harrison, Benjamin - VA - Plantation Owner, Farmer

- Hart, John - NJ - Land owner
- Hewes, Joseph - NC - Merchant
- Heyward Jr., Thomas - SC - Lawyer, Plantation Owner
- Hooper, William - NC - Lawyer
- Hopkins, Stephen - RI - Merchant
- Hopkinson, Francis - NJ - Lawyer, Musician
- Huntington, Samuel - CT - Lawyer
- Jefferson, Thomas - VA - Lawyer, Plantation Owner, Scientist
- Lee, Francis Lightfoot - VA - Plantation Owner
- Lee, Richard Henry - VA - Plantation Owner, Merchant
- Lewis, Francis - NY - Merchant
- Livingston, Philip - NY - Merchant
- Lynch Jr., Thomas - SC - Lawyer
- McKean, Thomas - DE - Lawyer
- Middleton, Arthur - SC - Plantation Owner
- Morris, Lewis - NY - Plantation Owner
- Morris, Robert - PA - Merchant, Land Speculator
- Morton, John - PA - Farmer
- Nelson Jr., Thomas - VA - Merchant, Plantation Owner
- Paca, William - MD - Lawyer, Plantation Owner
- Paine, Robert Treat - MA - Lawyer, Scientist
- Penn, John - NC - Lawyer
- Read, George - DE - Lawyer
- Rodney, Caesar - DE - Plantation Owner, Military Officer
- Ross, George - PA - Lawyer
- Rush, Benjamin Dr. - PA - Physician
- Rutledge, Edward - SC - Lawyer, Plantation Owner
- Sherman, Roger - CT - Lawyer
- Smith, James - PA - Lawyer
- Stockton, Richard - NJ - Lawyer
- Stone, Thomas - MD - Lawyer
- Taylor, George - PA - Merchant
- Thornton, Matthew - NH - Physician
- Walton, George - GA - Lawyer
- Whipple, William - NH - Merchant
- Williams, William - CT - Merchant
- Wilson, James - PA - Lawyer
- Witherspoon, John - NJ - Minister
- Wolcott, Oliver - CT - Lawyer
- Wythe, George - VA - Lawyer

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Answers on Page 17.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Cut quickly
- 5. A way to state clearly
- 11. River in NE Scotland
- 14. Expansive
- 15. Lacking social polish
- 16. Amount of time
- 17. Frame
- 19. Automobile
- 20. Toadstools
- 21. High school dances
- 22. Utilize
- 23. Experimented with
- 25. One-sided
- 27. Acquisitive
- 31. Potted plants
- 34. Everyone has one
- 35. Kalahari Desert lake
- 38. Unidentified flying object
- 39. People 65 and over

- 41. Small amount
- 42. Daughter of Acrisius
- 44. Ornamental box
- 45. Government agents
- 46. Uncertain
- 49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- 51. Treeless plains
- 55. One's sense of self-importance
- 56. Consumer advocate
- 60. Type of lounge
- 61. Body part
- 62. Can be persuaded
- 64. Woman (French)
- 65. Ready and willing to be taught
- 66. Arab ruler title
- 67. Unhappy
- 68. Gradually went away
- 69. Able to think clearly

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Brushed
- 2. Small water spirit (Germ.)
- 3. Heroes
- 4. Monetary units
- 5. Some don't want to share theirs
- 6. Free-swimming invertebrate
- 7. Litigates
- 8. Outer
- 9. Parallelograms
- 10. Uneasy feelings
- 11. Cross
- 12. A way to remove
- 13. Pages can be dog-__
- 18. Ukrainian city
- 24. A citizen of Denmark
- 26. Month
- 28. Hindu queens
- 29. Group of chemicals
- 30. Rider of Rohan
- 31. Wet dirt

- 32. Southwestern Russia city
- 33. Observed
- 36. Angry
- 37. Drivers' licenses
- 39. Musical composition
- 40. Auction
- 43. They __
- 45. Women
- 47. Be filled with love for
- 48. Thick-soled sock
- 49. Appears
- 50. Old World lizard
- 52. The leading performer
- 53. Protein
- 54. "Gunga Din" script writer
- 57. Art __, around 1920
- 58. __ Blyton, children's author
- 59. Abnormal breathing
- 63. A place to rest



BREAKFAST is Served

Delicious recipe inspiration
to wake up your morning routine!



This crowd-pleasing classic casserole is a savory start to the day

For lazy weekend mornings or when entertaining a crowd, this “Farmhouse Skillet” from “Lord Honey Traditional Southern Recipes with a Country Bling Twist” (Pelican Publishing) by Chef Jason Smith, puts together a blend of savory ingredients into an egg casserole that can be a winner on any brunch table.

Farmhouse Skillet

Serves 8-10

1 pound bacon, diced
2 cups cubed cooked ham
½ pound breakfast sausage, cooked and crumbled
1 small purple onion, diced
½ red bell pepper, diced
½ yellow bell pepper diced
10 eggs, beaten
½ cup heavy cream
1 20-ounce package frozen shredded hash browns, or tater tots, thawed
Salt and ground black pepper to taste
1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese

Preheat oven to 350 F.

In a very large cast-iron skillet (12-inch or larger), over medium heat, cook the bacon until crispy. Then add the ham and sausage and stir. Add the onions and peppers, and sauté for 5 minutes, always stirring. In a small bowl, whisk the eggs and heavy cream.

Stir the hash browns into the skillet, and add salt and pepper to taste. Cook for 5 to 8 minutes, until hash browns start to brown. Remove from heat. Add the egg mixture, top with cheese, and bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until bubbly and cheese is melted.



A make-ahead breakfast for vegans and matcha lovers

Overnight oats are nutritious and easy options for any day of the week. As the name suggests, overnight oats are prepared the night before and then the flavors marinate with the oats for several hours, producing a rich and creamy breakfast in the morning. Oats are filling on their own, and “Matcha, Coconut and Cacao Overnight Oats” have the added benefit of green tea powder (matcha), which gives this dish a green color, and adds antioxidants, vitamins and an energy boost. Enjoy this recipe, courtesy of “Rainbow Bowls” (Sourcebooks) by Niki Webster.

Matcha, Coconut and Cacao Overnight Oats

5 tablespoons oats of your choice
½ teaspoon vanilla extract
6½ ounces plant-based milk, plus extra if needed
½ teaspoon matcha powder
2 tablespoons coconut yogurt
1 tablespoon cocoa nibs or dairy-free chocolate chips
1 to 2 teaspoons maple syrup
Topping options:
1 tablespoon chopped pistachios
Berries
Seeds

To make the overnight oats, add the oats, vanilla and milk to a mason jar or bowl and mix to combine. Cover and leave to soak overnight in the fridge. Remove the oats from the fridge and stir in the matcha, yogurt, cacao nibs, and maple syrup. Spoon into a bowl and add more plant-based milk to loosen if needed. Add toppings of your choice and enjoy.

Wake up taste buds with a sweet morning treat

This recipe for “Sticky Cinnamon-Walnut Spirals” marries the best of cinnamon rolls with the convenience of a muffin/cupcake tin preparation, courtesy of “Small Sweet Treats” (Gibbs Smith) by Marguerite Marceau Henderson.

Sticky Cinnamon-Walnut Spirals

Serves 6

½ cup dried currants
1 cup hot water
1 sheet frozen puff pastry (from 17.3-ounce package), room temperature
1 tablespoon butter, melted
1 teaspoon finely grated orange zest
½ cup finely chopped walnuts
½ cup packed dark brown sugar
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 tablespoon butter, melted
1 tablespoon sugar

Place currants in a bowl and pour hot water over top to cover. Steep for 15 minutes and then drain off excess water. Cool currants to room temperature.

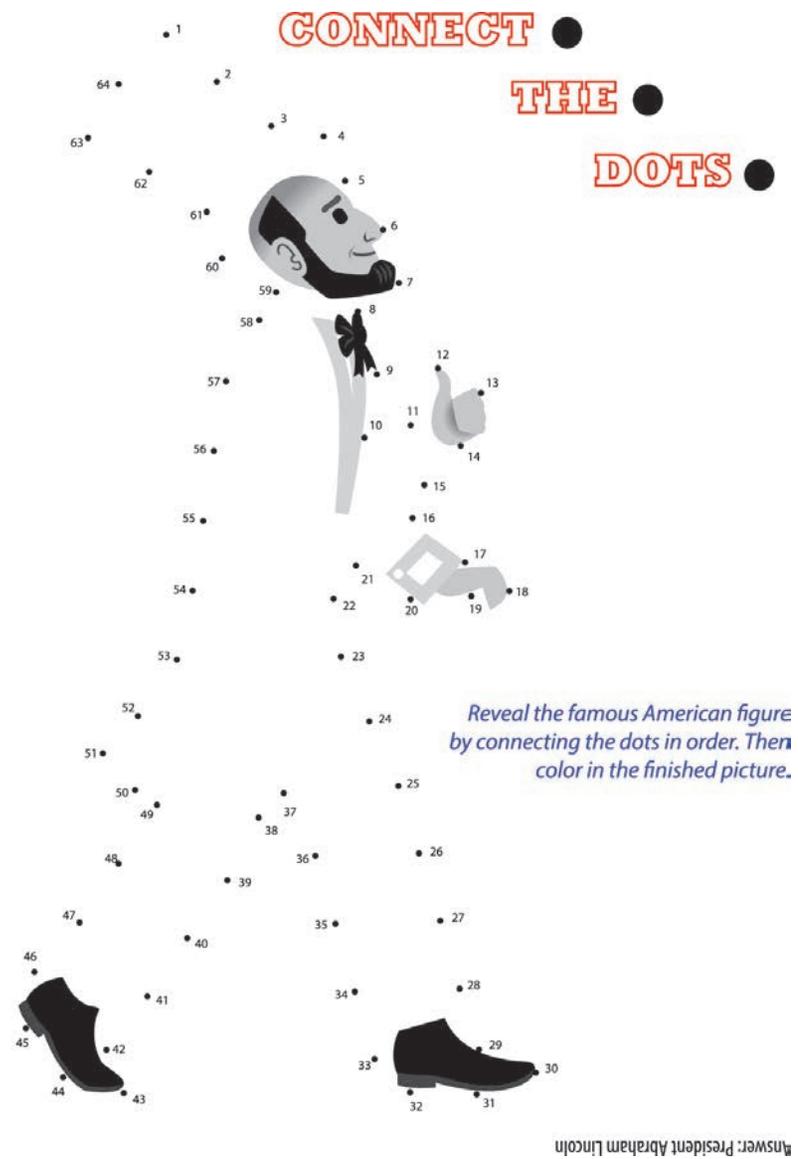
Roll out the pastry on a work surface. Brush the pastry with the melted butter. Combine the orange zest, walnuts, brown sugar, cinnamon, and reserved currants in a bowl. Spread the mixture evenly over the pastry. Roll up jelly-roll style, loosely. Place seam side down and cut into six slices, each about 2-inches wide.

Brush the interior of the muffin tin with the remaining tablespoon of melted butter and sprinkle with sugar. Place the cut slices of pastry into each muffin cup. Bake on the middle rack of a preheated 400 F oven for 22 to 25 minutes until golden brown and puffed. Allow to cool for a minute or two before removing from muffin pan.



Thank You, Crockett Fabricating

Crockett Fabricating once again has blessed Neighbors Offering Assistance and Hope (NOAH). \$15,000 was raised at the annual Christmas meal and presented to NOAH. Holding the check are Leenda Jowers, Lee Johns, Jason Johns and Mary Marvin. Not pictured is Nancy Johns. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed in cash or checks to help NOAH.



Small farms are the lifeblood of rural communities.

According to the Farm Bureau, 97 percent of American farms are owned by families. Small family farms make up the majority of farms nationwide and operate a higher share of acres altogether than any other farm size. It's important to note that the distinction "family farm" does not necessarily always mean a small-scale operation. Ten percent of farms owned by families generate more than \$350,000 in annual revenue. Despite this, small-scale farms are mired in a long-term decline, according to recent U.S. Department of Agriculture reports. Driven by economic pressures, government policies generally are favoring large operations, consolidation and tighter competition.

97%
of American farms are owned by families





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Deep-Fried Wings Make the Perfect Big Game Offering

People from all walks of life look forward to Super Bowl Sunday. Die-hard football fans may love each Sunday of the National Football League season, but even casual fans or people who typically don't watch a game all season enjoy getting together with friends and family to watch the big game on Super Bowl Sunday.

Much of the appeal around Super Bowl Sunday is the festive atmosphere, a feeling that's amplified by an assortment of delicious foods that tend to be on the menu at game watch gatherings. Chicken wings are a familiar staple of Super Bowl Sunday spreads, and this Lines+Angles recipe for 'Deep-Fried Chicken Wings and Legs In Beer Batter' can help fans indulge their love for wings this season.

Deep-Fried Chicken Wings and Legs In Beer Batter *Makes 4 servings*



- For the batter:
- 1 cup flour
 - 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
 - 1/2 teaspoon paprika
 - 1 medium egg, beaten
 - 10 ounces beer, IPA-style
 - Pepper
 - Salt
- For the chicken:
- 4 whole chicken wings
 - 4 chicken drumsticks
 - 3/4 cup cornstarch
 - 8 cups vegetable oil, for deep-frying

1. For the batter: Sift the flour, garlic powder, paprika, and salt and pepper into a large mixing bowl.
2. Whisk in the egg and enough beer to make a thick batter, taking care not to over-mix.
3. For the chicken: Heat the oil in a deep, heavy-based saucepan to 320 F on a thermometer.
4. Pat the chicken pieces dry and then dust in the cornstarch. Dip in the batter to coat.
5. Deep-fry the chicken, in batches, for 14 to 18 minutes until golden, crisp, and cooked through (the wings will need less time than the drumsticks).
6. Drain on paper towels and serve hot.

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FEBRUARY IS Black History Month

Meet Cal Johnson. Born a slave in 1844, he worked hard to become one of the first African American millionaires in Tennessee. He used the money he earned from a federal contract to open a racetrack and saloons. The first airplane to land in Knoxville is purported to have landed on his racetrack.

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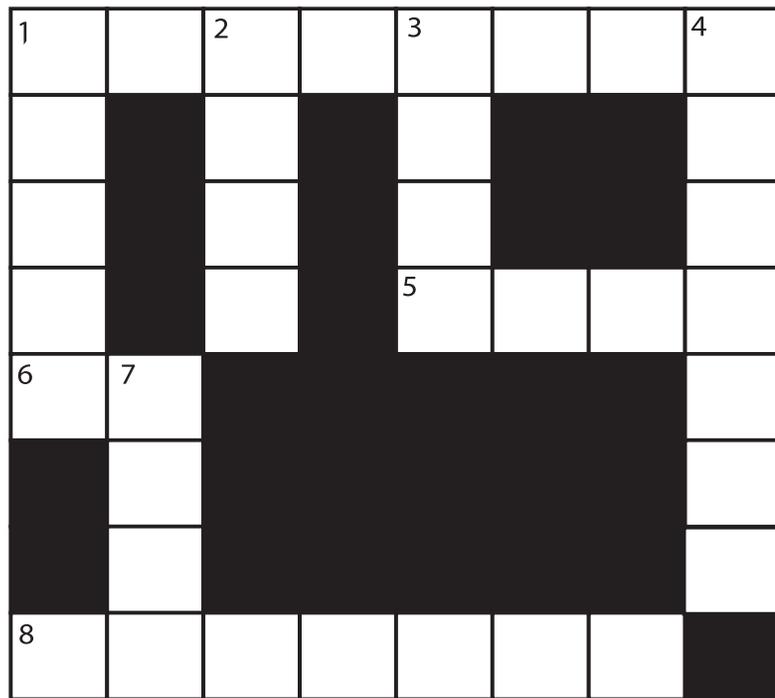
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Crossword Puzzle



THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1792: The Postal Service Act is signed in the United States.

1824: William Buckland announces Megalosaurus as the first non-avian dinosaur species.

1986: The Soviet Union launches its Mir spacecraft, which remains in orbit for 15 years.

Fun FACT:



Although the claims cannot be confirmed, some link this device to an early Chinese philosopher.

Answer: Kite

ACROSS

- 1. Connects kite to person
- 5. Defrost
- 6. Southern U.S. state
- 8. Hand spinning tool

DOWN

- 1. Flying devices
- 2. Part of a kite
- 3. Gain height
- 4. Twist together
- 7. Slap hands together

Down
1. Kites 2. Tail 3. Lift 4. Entwine 7. Clap

Across
1. Kite 5. Thaw 6. SC 8. Spindle

NEW WORD

TAIL

a part of a kite that improves stability and adds color

How they say that in...

- English:** Windy
- Spanish:** Ventoso
- Italian:** Ventoso
- French:** Venteux
- German:** Windig

Did You Know?

Guinness World Records says Australian Robert Moore's kite reached the highest altitude by a single kite in 2014. Moore's kite reached 16,009 feet, or 4,879.84 meters.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Kite



On Stage Now: Frozen

The Crockett County pre-k thru third grade cast of Frozen is ready for performances this week at the Bells Theatre. Frozen opens Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. and runs thru Sunday, Feb. 8, at 2 p.m. Call Gina Hartley for ticket info @ (731) 928-3889.

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Games & Recipes
from Name Newspaper

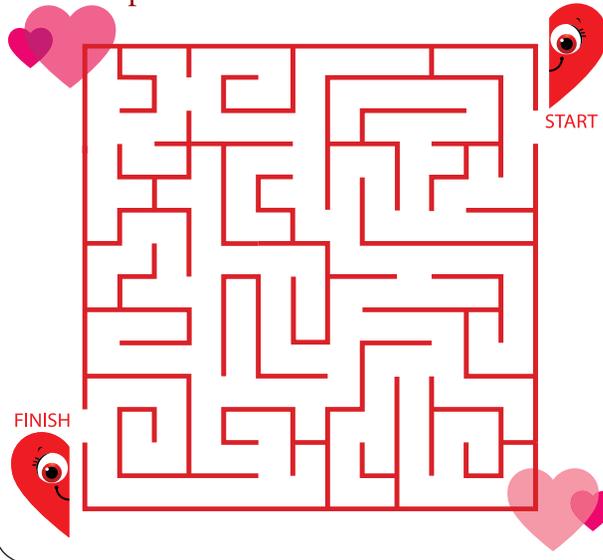
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B.



Answers:
1. Heart below card is upside down 2. Missing red pattern on right wine glass 3. Card has message 4. Chocolates replace heart confetti

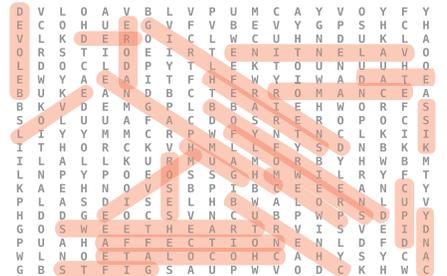
Help this heart find its other half!



Fun FACT!

Around 250 million of these are grown for Valentine's Day each year. They are a popular offering as a gift of love.

Answer: Red roses



VALENTINE'S DAY WORD SEARCH

D	V	L	O	A	V	B	L	V	P	U	M	C	A	Y	V	O	Y	F	Y
E	C	O	H	U	E	G	V	F	V	B	E	V	Y	G	P	S	H	C	H
V	L	K	D	E	R	O	I	C	L	W	C	U	H	N	D	U	K	L	A
O	R	S	T	I	O	E	I	R	T	E	N	I	T	N	E	L	A	V	O
L	D	O	C	L	D	P	Y	T	L	E	K	T	O	U	N	U	U	H	O
E	W	Y	A	E	A	I	T	F	H	F	W	Y	I	W	A	D	A	T	E
B	U	K	E	A	N	D	B	C	T	E	R	R	O	M	A	N	C	E	A
B	K	V	D	E	M	G	P	L	B	B	A	I	E	H	W	O	R	F	S
S	O	L	U	U	A	F	A	C	D	O	S	R	E	R	O	P	O	C	S
L	I	Y	Y	M	M	C	R	P	W	F	Y	N	T	N	C	L	K	I	I
I	T	H	O	R	C	K	V	H	M	L	L	F	Y	S	D	N	B	K	K
I	L	A	L	L	K	U	R	M	U	A	M	O	R	B	Y	H	W	B	M
L	N	P	Y	P	O	E	O	S	S	G	H	M	W	I	L	R	Y	F	T
K	A	E	H	N	O	V	S	B	P	I	B	C	E	E	E	A	N	C	Y
P	L	A	S	D	I	S	E	L	H	B	W	A	L	O	R	N	L	U	V
H	D	D	G	E	O	C	S	V	N	C	U	B	P	W	P	S	D	P	Y
G	O	S	W	E	E	T	H	E	A	R	T	R	V	I	S	V	E	I	D
P	U	A	H	A	F	F	E	C	T	I	O	N	E	N	L	D	F	D	N
W	L	N	O	E	T	A	L	O	C	O	H	C	A	H	Y	S	Y	C	A
G	B	S	T	F	I	G	S	A	U	P	W	V	O	D	C	K	H	W	C

WORDS

- ADORE
- AFFECTION
- BELOVED
- BOYFRIEND
- CANDY
- CHAMPAGNE
- CHERUB
- CHOCOLATE
- CUPID
- DATE
- FLOWERS
- GIFTS
- GIRLFRIEND
- HEARTS
- HUG
- KISS
- LOVE
- MOVIE
- POEM
- RED
- ROMANCE
- ROSES
- SWEETHEART
- VALENTINE

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.



Cardinal Caravan Fans!

Wyatt Comstock and McLean Turnage, fourth grade students at Alamo Elementary School, enjoyed meeting six of the St. Louis Cardinals on the caravan that stopped in Dyersburg.

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Puzzle On Page 9.

S	N	I	P		A	S	S	E	R	T		D	E	E	
W	I	D	E		G	A	U	C	H	E		E	R	A	
E	X	O	S	K	E	L	E	T	O	N		C	A	R	
P	I	L	E	I		P	R	O	M	S		U	S	E	
T	E	S	T	E	D				B	I	A	S	E	D	
			A	V	A	R	I	C	I	O	U	S			
M	U	M	S		N	A	M	E		N	G	A	M	I	
U	F	O		S	E	N	I	O	R	S		T	A	D	
D	A	N	A	E		I	N	R	O		F	E	D	S	
			I	R	R	E	S	O	L	U	T	E			
S	A	T	E	E	N			P	A	M	P	A	S		
E	G	O			N	A	D	E	R		B	A	R	C	A
E	A	R			A	M	E	N	A	B	I	L	I	T	Y
M	M	E			D	O	C	I	L	E		E	M	I	R
S	A	D			E	R	O	D	E	D		S	A	N	E

“Come on, Get Happy”

Exciting News for All Fans of The Jones Family

BY JUDY POSTON
(judyposton1963@gmail.com)

Bobby, Dean, Linda, Judy, and Joan – The Jones Family... their very names stir up memories of all-night singings and church homecomings with good preaching, delicious dinner on the grounds, and afternoon singings that could lift the rafters high with joy unspeakable and sweet family harmony.

Judy's husband, Gene Lester, shares exciting news for all family, friends, and fans of the gospel group, who long to hear the brother and sisters sing again. Judy and Gene's son, Brian, who resides in Franklin, has recently added the group's collection of recorded material to YouTube. Songs from their recordings are available as well as live performances. (The first one I listened to was live at the

West Tennessee Quartet Convention with the group being introduced by Bro. Thomas Barber.) Included are all your gospel favorites sung as only the Jones Family can sing, thus making the family's recordings easily available for anyone to listen to anytime.

To access, simply go to YouTube, type in “Jones Family Quintet,” and enjoy and sing along with music that lifts your spirit, causes your heart to rejoice, and carries you into His presence.

The origins of the Jones Family date back to the 1930s when their parents, Samuel Jesse and Martha Faye Craig Jones, as a young couple who sang in church themselves, dedicated the lives and talents of their children to God. After much thought and prayer, the couple decided to sell their family's one cow and pur-



The Singing Jones Family circa 1950s (from left) Joan, Linda, Judy, Dean, and Bobby

chase a piano. Oldest daughter, Dean, was given piano lessons in order to accompany the siblings as they sang. The family's first appearance was at Center Methodist Church near Gadsden. The girls, for years, wore identically matching dresses lovingly sewed by their mother.

The five children made up “The Singing Jones Family,” traveling thousands of miles across the South for 65 plus years sharing the Good News of the Gospel in testimony and in song.

Today, the group, Generation, carries on the family tradition. The trio is made up of Mia Diamond, Bobby's daughter, and Judy and Gene's daughters, Susan Permenter and Julie Coulston. The girls

sing many of the favorites made popular by the Jones family as well as new material which they have made their own.

No better way to spend a cold February evening than sitting in your favorite chair with a cozy quilt pulled up to your chin, hands cupped around a warm mug of coffee, listening to old favorites via YouTube.

“Sun is shining, come on get happy.

The LORD is waiting to take your hand.

Hallelujah, come on get happy.

We're going to the Promised Land.”

(song written by Harold Arlen and Ted Koehler)



An album cover, “Still Rejoicing,” made when Dr. Wayne Rhear was playing bass with the group: (from left, front row) Bobby, Joan, Dr. Rhear, (back row) Linda, Dean, and Judy.

God's Word is Truth

Standing Against the Lord



In Acts 11, Peter is explaining how and why he had gone to the house of a Gentile to preach to them the gospel: "And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him, saying, 'Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them'" [Acts 11:1-3]. He concludes his defense in this manner: "And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that He said, 'John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.' Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God" [Acts 11:15-17]? Peter realized that it would be extremely unwise to stand against God. Wisely, the brethren agreed with him: "When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, 'Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life'" [Acts 11:18]. Solomon phrased it thusly: "There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the Lord" [Proverbs 21:30].

God's word consistently illus-

trates the folly of standing against God. Korah and others questioned the authority of God's anointed leaders. "Now Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men: And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown: And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, 'Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the Lord'" [Numbers 16:1-3]? The consequences for Korah and his followers were terrible: "And Moses said, 'Hereby ye shall know that the Lord hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind. If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the Lord hath not sent me. But if the Lord make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the Lord.' And

it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them: And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods. They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation" [Numbers 16:28-33].

Paul addressed the heart of the issue: "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" [Romans 8:5-7]. Gamaliel, Paul's teacher during his youth, was wise enough to see the folly of fighting against God. "Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space; And said unto them, 'Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men. For before these days rose up Theudas, boasting himself to be somebody;

to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to nought. After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were dispersed. And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel, or this work be of men, it will come to nought: But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God'" [Acts 5:34-39].

Also, understand that adding to or taking from God's word is standing against God. It too is a disastrous course. "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book" [Revelation 22:18-19].

Charles Yawn

[preacherman.in.the.hat@gmail.com]

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Making A Difference in a Child's Life *Forever*

BY JUDY POSTON

(judyposton1963@gmail.com)

Roger Smith knew he wanted to become directly involved with a volunteer organization in Crockett County. Something he could give his time and effort to and see a difference made for the better in the lives of those people served. He began to pray about the matter and set out to learn what he could about those ministries active within the community. While visiting the Chamber of Commerce, Roger first heard about CASA. He began to research the organization. He met Carol Haynes Barraza, Program Director. Her passion was contagious and soon he became involved, starting out as a court liaison. Today, Roger serves as the new Program Director as Carol has retired from the position.

Roger grew up in Brownsville, the son of a policeman. He attended school with friend, Bethany Outlaw. Today, in his position with CASA, Roger works closely with Bethany, director of the Carl Perkins Center in Alamo.

In 2006, Roger married Sandy Arnold. The couple attended Ala-

mo's First Assembly of God. Along with Sandy, there were three other families in the church then who served as foster parents. Through Sandy and the other foster families, Roger received a better understanding of what foster kids go through – the tough situations they oftentimes face. Roger learned a lot. A seed was planted. His heart was moved with compassion. He was being prepared for a future ministry.

In 2016, Roger and Sandy moved to Saltillo to serve in a church there in need of a pastor. Three years later, they returned to Alamo where Roger now pastors the Assembly of God Church and it was then that Roger was led to become involved with the work of CASA.

CASA stands for "Count Appointed Special Advocates" for children. When assigned a case by a judge, a trained volunteer advocates for abused, neglected, or dependent children in juvenile court, and before going to court, serves as the "eyes and ears" of the judge, gathering information, preparing reports, and then advocating for the child's needs in court, with the child's welfare and best interests

being the number one priority.

Through a court order, CASA has permission to speak to a doctor, a teacher, a guidance counselor, anyone who may be able to give information pertinent to a child's case. The CASA worker then writes a report and presents the information to the judge or to a lawyer, if a lawyer is involved. The CASA worker is able to make suggestions or recommendations to the judge or lawyer, noting for them any information that they believe should be brought to the forefront of the case.

CASA is then able to assist in making sure the judge's orders are carried out. They can help secure counseling or facilitate in helping to meet other needs the child may have. CASA volunteers are part of CFTM (Child and Family Team Meetings) in which those involved with the welfare of a child meet to discuss progress and needs of the child and the child's family. CASA reports back to the judge on whether the child's situation is truly improving, staying the same, or worsening. The desire is for the child to be safe, healthy, and happy, and that they would have the chance to grow

up to be productive adults.

Volunteers who have a heart for children are greatly needed as both foster parents and CASA volunteers. There are 12 open cases now – all within the county. A volunteer is asked to give about ten hours per month. CASA follows all rules and regulations of the state. A screening process is involved for each potential volunteer and training is provided. If a person is interested, but not confident of his/her abilities in one area, Roger says that shouldn't stop anyone from volunteering. A volunteer can be used in other areas in which he/she feels more comfortable.

For more information, please contact Roger Smith: by phone, 731-394-5576, or email, crockettcasa@gmail.com.

Some 79,000 volunteers participate in CASA nationwide, helping to bring support and stability to children in the foster care system. This network is made up of people willing to stand up and speak out for abused and neglected children. Like Roger, you can make a difference in a child's life, FOREVER, by becoming a CASA volunteer.

AI Is Transforming Agriculture

Technology has revolutionized global agriculture. Automation has changed the agricultural sector, and those changes might have arrived in the nick of time.

The global population is projected to reach nearly 10 billion by 2050, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations estimates that food production has to increase by at least 70 percent to keep up with demand. In order to address the deficit without exhausting the Earth's finite resources, many farmers are seeking help from artificial intelligence (AI). AI offers farmers additional perks as well.

Precision ag

Precision is a notable benefit of utilizing AI within the agricultural sector. By using AI-powered sensors and satellite imagery, farmers

can monitor crop health by looking at each and every plant instead of inspecting by the acre. According to a report by MarketsandMarkets, a revenue impact and marketing consulting firm, the market for AI in agriculture is expected to grow from \$1.7 billion (the figure in 2023) to \$4.7 billion by 2028.

Precision helps to keep plants strong and weed-free. AI-driven "see-and-spray" technology utilizes computers to identify weeds among crops and apply herbicides only to those weeds. This reduces blanket-spraying an entire field, which is a waste of resources. Research published in the *Journal of Agriculture and Food Chemistry* indicates that this AI-guided tool can reduce herbicide use by up to 90 percent. This reduces costs to farmers and benefits local ecosystems.

Risk management

Weather across the planet has featured an uptick in volatile, unanticipated conditions. This can make planting even more challenging for farmers. AI models can process decades of historical weather data, soil conditions and atmospheric changes to offer predictive analytics that help the agriculture industry. By using predictive AI tools, farmers can determine optimal planting windows to maximize yield, according to the International Food Policy Research Institute. In addition, AI algorithms can predict outbreaks of pests and diseases before farmers notice them on their own. Multispectral imagery from drones can detect crop stress caused by nutritional deficiencies or fungus days before a human might recognize such indicators. By catching things

early, farmers can reduce risk of a poor crop and financial losses.

Automation

Agricultural labor shortages are forcing farming operations to seek alternatives to get the job done. The American Farm Bureau Federation notes that farm labor has become more expensive and it's harder to find workers who want to do the arduous tasks often required of them. AI-driven robotics and autonomous tractors guided by GPS can help fill the void. These devices can work through the night, preparing soil, harvesting crops and performing other vital tasks.

AI continues to be integrated into the agricultural sector. In order to maintain food security and mitigate labor shortages, farming operations are using technological tools to bridge gaps and improve efficiency.



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Cost-Effective Curb Appeal Boosters

One shouldn't judge a book by its cover. However, that often is hard to do, particularly when it comes to homes. Curb appeal bears significant influence regarding how a property is perceived. A property that is neat and aesthetically appealing probably will be preferable to one that looks like the homeowners did not maintain it.

Boosting curb appeal is a common focus of sellers before listing a property. But what can those who don't have big budgets for major overhauls do to improve their curb appeal? Plenty of projects can offer maximum output with minimal investment.

Refresh the front door

Painting the front door can add brightness and improve the look of a home's entryway. Most exterior paint costs between \$30 and \$40 per gallon, so this is undeniably a budget-friendly improvement. If money allows, replacing the door altogether will generate bang for your buck.

Improve or add landscape elements

Landscaping should be designed to highlight the home's best fea-



tures. It should look symmetrical and feel manicured. If it's not possible to plant new flowers or bushes, simply cleaning up debris and weeds, and trimming existing greenery can make it feel neater and more polished.

Reseal the driveway

Make sure the driveway is clean and tidy. If it has cracks or discoloration, filling in cracks and applying a new coat of sealer will make a big difference. Homeowners can hire someone to reseal the driveway or do the work on their own.

dew can reduce the luster of a home. Cleaning off years of grime can be a fast and inexpensive refresh.

Add more lighting

Updating front porch lights and accent lights around the property will cast a more positive glow on a home, both literally and figuratively.

Add seating area

If space by the front door allows, add a bench or some chairs to create a welcoming seating area. A potted plant or two nearby will help the area seem intentional.

Clean up

Power-washing the siding, cement walkways and garage door can create instant impact. It's amazing how much dirt and mil-

Improving curb appeal doesn't have to cost a lot of money. A few easy touches can boost the look of any property.

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